

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 FDRE-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 PM-04

SSO-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 SCA-01 SCS-03 DPW-01 IO-11 EB-07

IGA-02 MED-03 OES-05 PRS-01 HEW-06 OMB-01 L-03 H-02

EUR-12 /158 W

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O 161820Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 296

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 1259

DEPT PASS SECDEF NIACT IMMEDIATE JCS NIACT IMMEDIATE USCINCSO NIACT  
IMMEDIATE ROUTINE TO SAN SALVADOR MANAGUA SAN JOSE TEGUCIGALPA  
MEXICO USUN USMISSION GENEVA USDA/FAS

AIDAC FOR AID/PHA/FDRC

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: SWEL, GT

SUBJ: GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE - SITREP #16

REF: GUATEMALA 1248

1. AMBASSADOR HAS APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT  
LAUGERUD AT 0900 FEBRUARY 17 TO PRESENT TO HIM RESULTS  
OF THE ARMY ENGINEERS' STUDY OF CONDITION OF ATLANTIC  
HIGHWAY AND WHAT IS REQUIRED IN TIME, MEN, AND MATERIAL TO  
RETURN IT TO COMMERCIAL USE.

2. WATER. THERE ARE NOW IN PLACE OR TO BE PLACED FEB  
16 EIGHTY 3,000 GALLON WATER TANKS IN 69 LOCATIONS,  
INCLUDING 23 IN GUATEMALA CITY. INABILITY OF MORE THAN  
TWO CH-47'S TO FLY FEB 15 PREVENTED MORE SPEEDY DEPLOYMENT  
OF TANKS. VALVES, CONNECTORS, AND FLEXIBLE PIPE  
FOR RESTORING EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLIES ARE STILL IN  
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SHORT SUPPLY. NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE BY GOG IN

REOPENING ATLANTICO WATER STATION WHICH SUPPLIES A FIFTH TO A FOURTH OF GUATEMALA CITY'S WATER. AMBASSADOR PLANS TO RAISE ATLANTICO PROBLEM AT FEB 17 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT IF IT IS NOT OPERATIONAL BY THAT TIME.

3. HELICOPTER OPERATIONS. ON FEB 15 UH1H "HUEY" HELICOPTERS FLEW 158 SORTIES, CARRYING 424 PASSENGERS, 63 LITTER PATIENTS, AND 17,760 LBS. OF CARGO. CH-47 "CHINOOK" HELICOPTERS, OF WHICH ONLY TWO OF EIGHT WERE ABLE TO FLY, FLEW 33 SORTIES, CARRYING 79 PASSENGERS AND 64,000 LBS OF CARGO.

4. AS END OF EMERGENCY PHASE OF RELIEF OPERATION APPROACHES, TWO UH1H HELICOPTERS ARE DUE TO BE WITHDRAWN ON FEB 16 AND FOUR CH-47'S ARE SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO CONUS FEB 17. THIS WILL LEAVE 7 UH1H AND FOUR CH-47 HELICOPTERS IN COUNTRY.

5. CHIMALTENANGO MILITARY HOSPITAL. NO NEW PATIENTS WERE ADMITTED FEB 15 AND ONLY THREE OUTPATIENTS WERE SEEN, ALL DENTAL. THE REMAINING 15 IN-PATIENTS WERE ALL DISCHARGED LEAVING THE HOSPITAL WITHOUT ANY PATIENTS AS THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF PREPARES FOR A FEB 17 DEPARTURE FROM GUATEMALA. SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT THAT IS NOT BEING TURNED OVER TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND REMAINING STAFF WILL RETURN US FEW DAYS LATER. ONLY MEDICAL EQUIPMENT THAT CAN BE USED TO TREAT DISASTER-RELATED INJURIES WILL BE LEFT IN COUNTRY. ANY NEW PATIENTS CAN BE HANDLED BY NICARAGUAN HOSPITAL, WHICH WILL REMAIN ADDITIONAL THREE WEEKS, CHIMALTENANGO HOSPITAL, OR BEHRHORST CLINIC. TWO OF FOUR BUILDINGS IN CHIMALTENANGO HOSPITAL ARE PRESENTLY USABLE, AND OTHER TWO ARE SALVAGEABLE.

6. MISSING PERSONS BUREAU. BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBERS OF INJURED TREATED BY THE CHIMALTENANGO MEDICAL FACILITIES AND THEN TRANSFERRED ELSEWHERE A MISSING PERSONS BUREAU HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO HELP RELATIVES LOCATE THEIR MISSING FAMILY MEMBERS.

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7. SPECIAL FORCES TEAMS. THE TEAMS ENCOUNTERED NO VILLAGE THAT STILL HAD SERIOUSLY WOUNDED WHO HAD NOT BEEN EVACUATED. THE MEDICAL SITUATION WAS GENERALLY UNDER CONTROL. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO PATTERN IN FOOD OR WATER NEEDS. SOME HAD GOOD WATER, BASIC FOODSTUFFS (CORN AND BEANS) BUT LACKED SALT. OTHERS HAD FOOD BUT LACKED POTABLE WATER. OTHERS LACKED FOOD. SHELTER WAS NEEDED BY ALL. AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOG A FEW TEAMS WILL NOW BE

MOVED INTO THE DISASTER AREA NORTHEAST OF GUATEMALA CITY TO DETERMINE IF THERE ARE ANY ALDEAS THAT HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES.

8. REPORTS OF EPIDEMICS. DESPITE REPORTS OF OUTBREAKS OF MEASLES AND TYPHOID FEVER "EPIDEMICS" INVESTIGATIONS HAVE THUS FAR TURNED UP NO PRESENT CASES OF MEASLES AND ONLY A VERY FEW CASES OF TYPHOID, ALL OF WHICH WERE APPARENTLY CONTRACTED BEFORE THE EARTHQUAKE.

9. PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLIES. GOG IS PRESENTLY ONLY USING MEDICINES THAT ARRIVE IN COUNTRY ALREADY CLASSIFIED; THESE STAY AT THE AIRPORT WAREHOUSE FOR QUICK DISTRIBUTION - THE REST ARE SENT TO THE ADOLFO HALL WAREHOUSE FOR CLASSIFICATION. THERE ARE PRESENTLY 38 TONS OF MIXED DRUGS AT THE WAREHOUSE THAT ARE BEING CLASSIFIED WITH THE HELP OF US PHARMACISTS.

10. UNITED STATES RELIEF FLIGHTS. NON MILITARY: PANAM 707 ARRIVED FROM WASHINGTON AT 1435 FEB 15 WITH 18,665 LBS OF MEDICINE AND OTHER CARGO. A PIPER 31 AIRCRAFT ARRIVED AT 1615 WITH 2000 LBS OF MEDICINE. AT 1640 A DC-8 CARRYING CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF NEW ORLEANS ARRIVED WITH 80,000 LBS OF MEDICINES AND FOOD. AT 1300 AN F-207 (SMALL JET) ARRIVED WITH 5,000 LBS OF MEDICINES AND BABY FOOD. IN ADDITION 13 VARIOUS AIRCRAFT ARRIVED FROM US WITH 9,000 LBS OF MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT, 505 LBS OF POWDERED MIL, 29 RADIOS, 44 LBS OF SUTURE MATERIAL, AND 28,752 LBS OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT. NO FURTHER IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON THESE FLIGHTS IS AVAILABLE.

MILITARY: NO MILITARY RELIEF FLIGHTS HAVE ARRIVED SINCE 2020 HOURS FEBRUARY 13.  
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11. THIRD COUNTRY RELIEF FLIGHTS. AT 0935 FEB 15 A MEXICAN AIR FORCE DC-6 ARRIVED WITH 10,000 LBS OF MEDICINES, AT 1020 A HONDURAN C-47 ARRIVED WITH 50 LBS OF MEDICINES; AT 1115 A MEXICAN DC-4 ARRIVED WITH 9,500 LBS OF MEDICINE AND CLOTHING; AT 1120 COSTA RICAN LAXCA DC-6 ARRIVED WITH 22,500 LBS OF MEDICINE AND FOOD; A MEXICAN AIR FORCE DC-4 ARRIVED AT 1125 WITH 9,000 LBS OF MEDICINE; AT 1145 A MEXICAN AIR FORCE DC-6 ARRIVED WITH 10,000 LBS OF MEDICINE AND LCOTHING; A PAKISTAN PIA 707 ARRIVED AT 1150 WITH 19,544 LBS OF FOOD AND MEDICINES; A PANAMANIAN AIR FORCE L-188 ARRIVED AT 1325 WITH 2,000 LBS OF FOOD, MEDICINES, AND CLOTHING; A BRAZILIAN AIR FORCE C-130 ARRIVED AT 1605 WITH 22,000 LBS OF FOOD, MEDICINE, CLOTHING, AND BLANKETS.

AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT FROM HOLLAND ARRIVED AT  
UNKNOWN TIME WITH 268 LBS OF TENTS.

12. RECONSTRUCTION. A BAN HAS BEEN IMPOSED BY NATIONAL  
EMERGENCY COMMITTEE ON RECONSTRUCTION OF DAMAGED  
HOUSING IN GUATEMALA CITY AREA UNTIL GOG ENGINEERS  
HAVE GIVEN APPROVAL. BAN MAY BE EXTENDED TO REST OF  
COUNTRY. REASON IS THAT PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO DO MAKE-  
SHIFT REPAIRS TO BADLY DAMAGED HOMES RATHER THAN TEAR  
DOWN REMAINING STRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCT NEW HOME.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISASTER RELIEF, EARTHQUAKES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION AID  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 76 GUATEMALA 1248  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MartinML  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 JUL 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2004 by MartinML>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE - SITREP #16  
**TAGS:** SWEL, GT, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006